

Prosecutors say paramedics ignored Elijah McClain's distress after stop and killed him with overdose

By Colleen Slevin and Matthew Brown
Associated Press
BRIGHTON, Colo. (AP) — A Colorado prosecutor said Wednesday that two paramedics "did nothing" to help an ailing Elijah McClain as he lay on the ground and instead injected him with an overdose of a powerful sedative that killed the 23-year-old Black man after officers forcibly restrained him as he walked home from a convenience store. Defense attorneys, however, sought to shift blame

to the officers during opening statements in the final jury trial over McClain's 2019 death in a Denver suburb. One said there was not much the paramedics could do as police pinned down McClain, with a sergeant at one point stepping on McClain's legs and another officer slamming him to the ground. The trial is expected explore largely uncharted legal territory because it is rare for medical first responders to face criminal charges.

Continued on Page 2



Paramedics Jeremy Cooper, left, and Peter Cichuniec, right, attend an arraignment at the Adams County Justice Center in Brighton, Colo., on Jan. 20, 2023.

(Andy Cross/The Denver Post via AP, File)
Page 2

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Prosecutors say paramedics ignored Elijah McClain's distress after stop and killed him with overdose

Continued from Front

Initially, no one was charged because the coroner's office could not determine exactly how McClain died. But social justice protests following the 2020 murder of George Floyd drew renewed attention to McClain's case, and a grand jury indicted the paramedics and three officers in 2021.

The officers already have gone to trial and two were acquitted, one who administered a neck hold on McClain and another who is back at work for the Aurora Police Department. The third officer was convicted of criminally negligent homicide and third-degree assault.

Aurora Fire Department paramedics Jeremy Cooper and Lt. Peter Cichuniec have pleaded not guilty to manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide and several counts each of assault.

Colorado Solicitor General Shannon Stevenson told jurors that McClain was their patient but Cooper and Cichuniec did not give him any medical treat-



Sheneen McClain, mother of Elijah McClain, raises her arm as she leaves the courtroom after one police officer was convicted while the other officer was acquitted of charges in the 2019 death of her son after the trial in Adams County, Colo., courthouse Thursday, Oct. 2, 2023, in Brighton, Colo.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

ment, never opening their medical equipment bag or touching him. Instead, she said that as McClain was held by police facedown on the ground, not speaking and barely moving, they gave him the maximum authorized dose of a powerful sedative that he did not need and that

was too much for someone his weight, which was 140 pounds (64 kilograms)

"He would have been better off if they had never come," said Stevenson, who said the paramedics did not need police permission to treat McClain.

Cooper's attorney Shana Beggan said the paramed-

ics decided to use the sedative ketamine based on the officers' description of McClain, such as resisting their "pain compliance" techniques and having superhuman strength. She said those are both signs of "excited delirium," a disputed condition that Beggan said the paramedics' training tells them requires ketamine to be administered. Critics say the condition has been used to justify excessive force and some doctor's groups reject excited delirium as a diagnosis.

"They're not being told that Elijah said, 'I'm just going home.' They were never told that Elijah said he couldn't breathe," she said. "Who's in control of the scene? It's law enforcement. They're in control the entire time."

Once McClain was put on a stretcher and handcuffs were removed, Cooper started directing his fellow medics about how to treat McClain, she said.

Cichuniec's lawyer, Michael Lowe, said the paramedics' training required that they put McClain in soft restraints on the gurney

before monitoring his condition.

In the ambulance, McClain, a massage therapist known for his gentle nature, went into cardiac arrest. He was pronounced dead three days later.

The amended coroner's report in 2021 found McClain died from "complications of ketamine administration following forcible restraint." Prosecution experts who testified during the earlier trials did not all agree on the role the police's actions played in McClain's death but all said that the ketamine was the main cause. McClain's death brought increased scrutiny to how police and paramedics use ketamine. It is often used at the behest of police if they believe suspects are out of control.

The fatal encounter on Aug. 24, 2019, began when a 911 caller reported that the man looked "sketchy" as he walked down the street wearing a ski mask and raising his hands in the air.

McClain, who was often cold, was walking home from a convenience store, listening to music. □



Chester County, Pa. election workers process mail-in and absentee ballots at West Chester University in West Chester on Nov. 4, 2020. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum, File)

Pennsylvania is trying to help voters avoid mistakes that would invalidate their mail ballot

**By Marc Levy
Associated Press
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)**

— Pennsylvania is trying anew to help voters using mail-in ballots in the battleground state avoid mistakes that might get their ballot thrown out in 2024's presidential election and beyond. In a new directive Wednesday, Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration asked counties to

start using a standard set of instructions to explain how to complete mail-in ballots, among other steps.

Shapiro's top election official, Secretary of State Al Schmidt, said some counties already use these methods.

The effort comes amid a partisan stalemate in Pennsylvania's Legislature and court battles over provisions in the state's four-

year-old mail-in voting law that have led counties to throw out tens of thousands of mail-in ballots cast by legal voters.

Voters completing a mail-in ballot must put their completed ballot into an inner secrecy envelope, insert that into an outer return envelope, and write their name, date and signature on the back of the outer envelope. □

US life expectancy rose last year, but it remains below its pre-pandemic level

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. life expectancy rose last year — by more than a year — but still isn't close to what it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 rise was mainly due to the waning pandemic, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researchers said Wednesday. But even with the large increase, U.S. life expectancy is only back to 77 years, 6 months — about what it was two decades ago.

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live, assuming the death rates at that time hold constant. The snapshot statistic is considered one of the most important measures of the health of the U.S. population. The 2022 calculations released Wednesday are provisional, and could change a little as the math is finalized.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy rose a little nearly every year. But about a



A couple walks through a park at sunset, March 10, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel, File)

decade ago, the trend flattened and even declined some years — a stall blamed largely on overdose deaths and suicides.

Then came the coronavirus, which has killed more than 1.1 million people in the U.S. since early 2020. The measure of American longevity plunged, dropping from 78

years, 10 months in 2019 to 77 years in 2020, and then to 76 years, 5 months in 2021.

"We basically have lost 20 years of gains," said the CDC's Elizabeth Arias. A decline in COVID-19 deaths drove 2022's improvement.

In 2021, COVID was the na-

tion's third leading cause of death (after heart disease and cancer). Last year, it fell to the fourth leading cause. With more than a month left in the current year, preliminary data suggests COVID-19 could end up being the ninth or 10th leading cause of death in 2023.

But the U.S. is battling other issues, including drug overdose deaths and suicides.

The number of U.S. suicides reached an all-time high last year, and the national suicide rate was the highest seen since 1941, according to a second CDC report released Wednesday.

Drug overdose deaths in the U.S. went up slightly last year after two big leaps at the beginning of the pandemic. And through the first six months of this year, the estimated overdose death toll continued to inch up.

U.S. life expectancy also continues to be lower than that of dozens of other countries. It also didn't rebound as quickly as it did in other places, including France, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Steven Woolf, a mortality researcher at Virginia Commonwealth University, said he expects the U.S. to eventually get back to the pre-pandemic life expectancy.

But "what I'm trying to say is: That is not a great place to be," he added. □

Lawsuit alleges negligence in train derailment and chemical fire that forced residents from homes

By Rebecca Reynolds
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal court alleges negligence by CSX Transportation caused a train derailment and ensuing chemical fire that forced residents of a small Kentucky town out of their homes for more than a day, including most of Thanksgiving.

The train derailed on Nov. 22 around 2:30 p.m. that Wednesday near the remote town of Livingston. Residents were advised to evacuate just a day before the Thanksgiving holiday and were only cleared to return to their homes that Thursday after the fire was put out.

An investigation by the railroad company found that the derailment occurred

after a wheel bearing on a train car failed.

Morgan & Morgan filed the lawsuit seeking class-action status on behalf of the town's affected residents, saying the derailment could have been prevented if CSX had monitored the train's wheel bearings more closely and had placed trackside detectors that sound an alarm when wheel bearings overheat closer together.

"Because of CSX's alleged recklessness and negligence in monitoring the train's wheel bearings, they've created a potentially deadly environment for all residents living in the surrounding area of Rockcastle County," Morgan & Morgan attorney Jean Martin said.

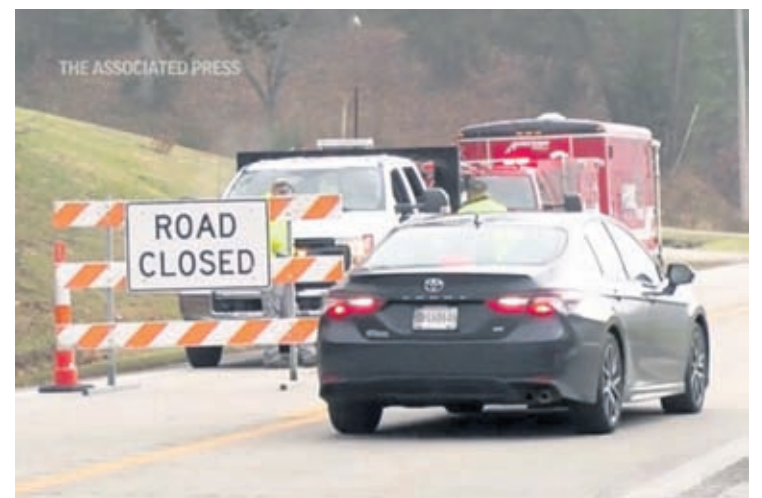
CSX said in a statement

that it is reviewing the lawsuit's allegations and that it continues to support affected residents.

"We pride ourselves on being a safe railroad and in the rare occurrence of an incident like the one in Livingston, KY we respond quickly, prioritizing safety and supporting recovery of the community," the statement said.

Two of the 16 cars that derailed carried molten sulfur, which caught fire after the cars were breached. No other hazardous materials were released. The Federal Railroad Administration said an investigation is ongoing.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency website, sulfur dioxide can cause respiratory problems, depending on the



Emergency responders work at the scene of a derailment of a CSX train north of Livingston, Ky., on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023. (WTVQ via AP Photo.)

concentration and length of exposure.

A spokesman for the railroad said Monday that crews were able to repair the tracks and trains resumed running through the area on Sunday. All 16

railcars involved in the derailment have been taken from the site, and crews removed the spilled chemical and 2,500 tons of impacted soil and replaced it with clean material, CSX said. □

Lawmakers can 'vote their conscience' on expelling Santos, House speaker says, but he has concerns

By Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Mike Johnson expressed reservations Wednesday about expelling Rep. George Santos from the House this week, but said he and other GOP leaders will not push colleagues to oppose removing the New York Republican from office. "We're going to allow people to vote their conscience," Johnson said.

Santos has survived two previous expulsion efforts in his first year in Congress and has said he will not seek reelection, but the hands-off approach this time could tip the scales against him. Support for ousting Santos has grown after a monthslong investigation by the House Ethics Committee found that Santos "sought to fraudulently exploit every aspect of his House candidacy for his own personal financial profit."

Johnson, R-La., said he has heard Republican lawmakers make forceful arguments on both sides. Some have argued that Santos should have his day in court before an expulsion vote occurs; that has been



Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., watches as Republicans try to elect Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., to be the new House speaker, at the Capitol in Washington, Oct. 25, 2023.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

the precedent in the House so far. Others believe that some of the things Santos did are "infractions against the House itself" and deserving of expulsion.

Lawmakers returned from their Thanksgiving break this week with competing expulsion resolutions brought to the floor — one from Democrats, the other from Republicans. The resolutions require leadership to bring them up for con-

sideration within two days, though it is expected that Democrats would not seek a second vote if Johnson brings the Republican expulsion resolution to the floor first.

A vote on expulsion could occur as early as Thursday, though Johnson suggested it would slip to Friday.

In the history of the House, only five members have been expelled, which is the most serious form of punish-

ment the House can exact on its members. Only two have been removed by their colleagues since the Civil War.

The Republican resolution is sponsored by Rep. Michael Guest of Mississippi, chairman of the House Ethics Committee. It states that the committee's investigation determined there was "substantial evidence" that Santos violated federal law and the rules of

the House, namely by converting campaign funds to personal use and through systemic reporting errors in his 2020 and 2022 campaign's filings with the Federal Election Commission. It also noted Santos' lack of candor with investigators, saying he provided them with "misrepresentations and delay tactics."

Santos, who is facing 23 charges in federal court, defiantly rejected the committee's findings in remarks on the House floor shortly after the resolution from Guest was offered by Rep. Anthony D'Esposito, R-N.Y. Santos has pleaded not guilty.

Some Republicans are holding out hope that Santos will resign before an expulsion vote. But he has been adamant that will not happen.

Johnson's remarks came after a closed-door meeting among Republicans. There is division within the conference about how to deal with Santos. At least two-thirds of the members present and voting must vote for the resolution for Santos to be expelled.

Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C., said "let the people of New York deal with him." □

Businesses where George Floyd was killed sue Minneapolis, saying police are not protecting the area



Barriers placed by the city of Minneapolis surround memorials as community members gather in George Floyd Square, June 7, 2021.

(AP Photo/Christian Monterrosa)

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Several stores at the location where George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police

in 2020 have sued the city, accusing it of neglecting the area and hurting business.

The lawsuit, filed in mid-No-

vember in state court, also names Mayor Jacob Frey and other officials and accuses the city of not properly policing the area since Floyd's death. It also accuses the city of blocking the intersection that is now known as George Floyd Square with concrete barriers for more than a year after Floyd's death, keeping customers from entering.

The combination has turned the area into a hub for violent crime, the lawsuit says.

"The mayor, the city, the city council, and the Minneapolis Police Department collectively agreed to severely limit police re-

sponse in the barricaded area surrounding plaintiffs' businesses," with police responding to only the most serious calls and otherwise actively avoiding the area, according to the lawsuit.

"Criminals know the area lacks police protection, and they have now made the area so dangerous that it has become known as the 'No Go Zone,'" the lawsuit says.

The businesses include Cup Foods, the convenience store where Floyd was suspected of trying to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill that led to the fatal encounter with police. The other businesses, including a tobacco

shop and investment business, are run from inside Cup Foods or nearby and are all owned by the same family, according to the lawsuit.

The city has said it offered a range of support for businesses in response to both the civil unrest that followed Floyd's killing and the COVID-19 pandemic. That included a \$1.5 million forgivable loans program in 2021 specifically for businesses located in and around George Floyd Square.

A spokesman for the city said officials are aware of the lawsuit and have no comment on it. □

Court clears France's justice minister of conflict of interest following an unprecedented trial

By Sylvie Corbet
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A special court cleared France's justice minister of conflict of interest on Wednesday, ruling that he was not guilty of having used his office to settle personal scores, the first such trial of a French government minister while still in office.

Eric Dupond-Moretti had denied wrongdoing and refused to resign before or during his two-week trial, defying what had been an unwritten rule until recent years that members of government quit when put under investigation.

Wednesday's verdict was a political victory for him and his allies.

Dupond-Moretti, speaking on France 2 television, said "this trial was an ordeal for me and at the same time a relief because I'd been waiting ... for over 3 years to explain myself."

"I want to turn the page ... and resume the ordinary course of my work," he added. "It's a good thing I wasn't forced to resign, since I'm innocent tonight." Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said she was happy to say that Dupond-Moretti would stay on in his role.

"The justice minister will now be able to continue



French Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti, left, arrives at Paris court house, in Paris, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023.

his work as part of the government team ... I am delighted," she said on X, formerly Twitter.

A high-profile lawyer before his time in government, Dupond-Moretti had been accused of abusing his position to order probes targeting magistrates who investigated him, his friends and his former clients.

He was tried in a special court for alleged wrongdoing by the government created in 1993, the Court of Justice of the Republic. Three professional magis-

trates joined by 12 members of parliament — six from the lower house and six from the Senate — heard the case, and a majority of eight votes was required to decide on the question of guilt. The proceedings marked the first time in modern France that a government minister was put on trial while still in office for actions taken as a minister, according to legal historians. The court previously tried 11 former government members, and convicted seven of them, over the

past three decades.

Dupond-Moretti left the court a few minutes after the verdict without speaking.

Defense lawyer Jacqueline Laffont expressed "satisfaction" and "huge emotion" at the decision, which she said showed her client "for three years had been unjustly accused."

"It is the victory of law ... also the victory of the separation of powers," Laffont said, adding: "Law triumphed and justice triumphed."

Remi Lorrain, also a defense lawyer, added that the verdict is a "surprise only for those who misunderstood." He said the ruling shows Dupond-Moretti "never wanted to take revenge on anyone."

Dupond-Moretti was appointed justice minister in the government of President Emmanuel Macron in July 2020. A few months later, two magistrates' unions and an anti-corruption association, Anticor, filed complaints against him.

The lawyer for magistrates' unions, Christophe Clerc, said the verdict represented "imperfect justice," but said that the group believes that the prosecution could deter conflicts of interest in the future.

Anticor posted a statement on its X account noting with regret that the ruling was made by a special court for government ministers. "Justice for ministers is unfortunately a political justice, in clear violation of the principle of equality before the law," the group said.

Anti-corruption group Transparency International France called in a statement for "reinforced ethical vigilance," especially when newly appointed government members are making their "first steps." □

(AP Photo/Christophe Ena, File)

Argentina's libertarian president-elect picks a former Central Bank chief as his economy minister

By Daniel Politi
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's president-elect, Javier Milei, announced Wednesday he has chosen Luis Caputo, a former finance minister and Central Bank chief known as an expert in markets, to lead the Economy Ministry when the right-wing leader takes office on Dec. 10.

The pick confirms that Milei, a libertarian outsider, is building a more orthodox team to manage Argentina's economy, which is suffering from red-hot inflation running at an annual rate

of 143%. "Yes, the economy minister is Luis Caputo," Milei said in a radio interview shortly after landing from a two-day trip to the United States, where he met with officials from the Biden administration.

As the first finance minister in former conservative President Mauricio Macri's government, Caputo was in charge of a debt restructuring and later became Central Bank chief.

Macri's party backed Milei in a Nov. 19 presidential runoff election, and his allies now are jockeying for Cabinet positions, leading

to some tensions with the president-elect's traditional libertarian allies.

The market has welcomed signs of Milei's more orthodox choices for key Cabinet positions. Argentine stocks and bonds have increased while the local currency, the peso, has appreciated slightly in financial markets since he won the election.

The choice of Caputo is "a wise choice in order to bring some kind of favorable expectations for markets regarding what economic policy is going to look like, at least



Then Finance Minister Luis Caputo attends a news conference at the Casa Rosada presidential palace, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dec. 30, 2016.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano, File)

in the short run," Nicolás Saldías, a senior analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit for Latin America and

the Caribbean, said. "He'll be very orthodox, and he understands the financial markets quite well." □

Residents in St. Croix sue government over water contaminated with lead and copper

By Danica Coto
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— A group of residents have sued a public utility company in the U.S. Virgin Islands after authorities there reported finding high levels of lead and copper in the tap water on St. Croix. The report caused panic and forced tens of thousands to rely on bottled water.

The class-action lawsuit, which is expected to be served in the coming days, accuses the U.S. territory's Water and Power Authority and Seven Seas Water Corporation of improper monitoring and failing to provide safe water, among other things.

Andrew Smith, the public utility's CEO, condemned the lawsuit on Wednesday. He said the agency acted swiftly and transparently after the test results became available and that officials are still working to improve water quality in St. Croix.

"We ... are disappointed that amidst these challenging circumstances, there are those who seek monetary gain by exploiting the evolving situation impacting the people of St. Croix," he said in a statement.

Seven Seas Water Corporation, a Florida-based company that runs a plant on St. Croix and provides



President Joe Biden speaks to members of the media before boarding Air Force One in Norfolk, Va., Nov. 19, 2023.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

water to the public utility for distribution, did not respond to a message seeking comment.

Lee J. Rohn, whose firm filed the lawsuit last week, said in an interview Wednesday that her clients have children whose blood tests show high levels of lead in their system.

"It would be narrow-minded at best to limit this to some idea that somebody is looking for monetary gain," she said. "What people are looking for is justice." The investigation into the state of tap water

in St. Croix began in late September, following complaints of reddish-brown water on the island of more than 50,600 people. In late October, the local government announced that officials found high levels of lead and copper and warned people not to drink their tap water.

As testing continued, the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands announced a state of emergency, with President Joe Biden doing the same earlier this month as residents in St. Croix received vouchers for bot-

tled water.

However, experts contacted by The Associated Press have said the results could be false because the testing did not meet standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Rohn, the attorney, dismissed that possibility, saying her clients have high levels of lead in their systems. She also criticized the government for announcing a couple of weeks ago that lead levels were low or undetectable at samples taken from various schools across St. Croix.

"There should be no levels of lead," she said. "The people can't drink their water. They can't bathe in their water. They can't cook with their water. They can't brush their teeth with their water, and they're being told by WAPA that they should spend money to fix their own plumbing."

Lead is a heavy metal that can damage a child's brain and nervous system, slow development and cause hearing and speech problems, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The lawsuit states that to make "matters worse, residents do not know how long they have been exposed to elevated levels of lead and copper in their water as WAPA has indicated that it only tests its water for these substances every three years."

The complaint seeks reimbursement for all expenses incurred by those affected and also replacement of all lead service lines at no cost to customers. Rohn also criticized that taxpayer money was being used to fund vouchers for bottled water. She said there should be a better distribution method for safe drinking water given that some residents are elderly and unable to leave their home. □

Nigeria's leader presents a \$34 billion spending plan that prioritizes the economy and security



A man sells fruits at a market in Lagos, Nigeria Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023.

(AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

By Chinedu Asadu
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)

Nigeria's leader on Wednesday presented a 27.5 trillion naira (\$34.8 billion) spending plan for 2024 to federal lawmakers, with a focus on stabilizing Africa's largest but ailing economy and tackling the nation's deadly security crisis. The primary objective of the proposed budget is to sustain the "robust foundation for sustainable economic development" that the new government has set in motion, President Bola Tinubu said

in Abuja, the capital. Lawmakers plan to deliberate before voting on the plan. Tinubu projected the economy would grow by at least 3.76% next year and listed infrastructure and social welfare programs among the government's priorities to reduce hardship in the country of more than 210 million people. During his six months in office, Tinubu introduced economic reforms that the government said would grow the economy and attract more foreign investment. Those reforms — including

the removal of costly gas subsidies — have instead worsened the hardship for many in the West African nation where surging inflation of 27.3% is already squeezing families.

At least 8.25 trillion naira (\$10.4 billion) in the proposed budget was earmarked to service Nigeria's high debt. Almost the same amount is planned for capital expenditures, highlighting once again the problem the country has faced for years as loan repayments continue to limit financing for key projects. □



The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on

Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De

Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then



Alonso de Ojeda

Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Duff" Kock.



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta



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Sea turtle conservation by Turtugaruba Foundation

ORANJESTAD — Turtugaruba was founded on September 3rd, 2003, by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Ten years earlier in 1993, a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) was introduced in Aruba and the rest of the Caribbean as an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Tom Barmes, who was working at DLVV (Department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishery) was one of the writers of the STRAP for Aruba, together with Karen Eckert, director of WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network). This is how sea turtle conservation started on the island following a plan that is still complied with today.

Tom formed a group of volunteers around him like an organization such as DLVV, because nature does not know office hours. This group of volunteers used the name WIDECAST Aruba and today there are still a few of them active. They first started protecting the Leatherback Sea Turtle nests on Palm Beach and Eagle Beach. This group also investigated which other species of sea turtles use Aruba as their nesting habitat and which

beaches are used by them. For a period of 25 years, a study has been conducted in which investigators monitored the beaches every morning to study turtle movement. Now, there is a good overview of sea turtle nesting activities.

There are 4 different species of sea turtle that visit Aruba to lay their eggs, each with their own specific season:

- Leatherback Sea Turtle - Lederschildpad - Driekiel (March – September)
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle - Dik-kopschildpad - Cawama (May – September)
- Hawksbill Sea Turtle - Karetschildpad - Caret (June – December)
- Green Turtle - Soepschildpad - Turtuga Blanco (July-November)

Investigators also reached a better understanding and overview of the biggest threats to the sea turtles' existence in Aruba and how these problems should be tackled. Despite the hard work all those years, most problems have not really gone away. Luckily—and thanks to the enormous efforts from



the volunteers, the sea turtles are still here. On Aruba, the sea turtles are threatened with extinction by pollution, people driving ATVs on dunes and beaches and the loss of nesting beaches due to coastal development for tourism. Because coastal development comes with artificial lighting, these can cause major issues for sea turtles. Female turtles usually come ashore at night looking for a dark beach to make her nest. However, a dark beach is hard to find here nowadays. Light causes stress and can result in her returning to the sea without laying her eggs. Furthermore, artificial lighting causes disorientation for the baby sea turtles (hatchlings).

They crawl towards artificial light sources (like streetlights, hotel lights, etc.) and end up walking in the opposite direction towards the hotels and away from the sea. In the 90's, it was a common occurrence to find complete nests of about 70 hatchlings dead on the street due to being run over by passing cars. Thanks to their protection methods and a lot of time and effort, the volunteers of Turtugaruba have managed to get this under control. However, for long-term prevention, there must be less light visible on the beaches and a strict regulation of it. Sea turtles simply need dark

nesting beaches for their survival. It is clear that even more coastal development would not make the situation better for the sea turtles. Do we need more hotel rooms? And even busier beaches? These are the choices that Aruba has to make. Do we want to leave a place for the sea turtles? Not only do we need sea turtles, but so does the rest of the world! Sea turtles play a vital role in keeping our oceans healthy. The Green Turtle, for example, keeps the sea grasses on the bottom of the sea short and therefore a healthy place for many fish to deposit their eggs. The Leatherback, the largest turtle of the world, eats mainly jellyfish and helps maintain the balance between jellyfish and plankton.

Despite the threats that exist on Aruba, the turtles still keep coming. That's why today Turtugaruba is especially proud of the volunteers and the many people and organizations of our community that carry a warm place in their hearts for the sea turtles. All four species are active now, which means all hands on deck in the field for us, the volunteers. We strive to keep the sea turtles, our oldest 'repeat guests', always coming back to Aruba and get the chance to reproduce here. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort & Spa!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors and an Emerald ambassador of Aruba. These honorees were honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors Mr. Ralph & Mrs. Susan Wuest from New York, United States and Emerald Ambassador Mrs. Debra Boyajian from Massachusetts, United States

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the La Cabana Beach Resort bestowed the certificates to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mr. & Mrs. Wuest were:

- "Seeing our friends again"
- Land and sea
- Aruba's food
- "Things to do"
- "Strolling downtown"

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mrs. Boyajian were:

- "Aruba is a friendly island and incredibly safe"
- Aruba's beautiful beaches
- Aruba's warm weather
- "Shopping is great!"
- Aruba's variety of restaurants to choose from

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



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Episode 80 Archaeological sites of Aruba



Sites contain archaeological features of national and international importance of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) that we consider best represent our natural heritage in terms of ethnic origins and iconic cultural values.

Aruba has fifty eight locations classified as Ceramics Periods Sites which had an open heart burning during the Ceramic Period (ca 1000 -1515 AD). While two stone exploitations sites where probably used in an epoch before by a pre ce-

ramic period people whom should be included in this



time frame. We should also consider the ceramic period sites containing colonial artifacts of great importance. There are six sites that are considered to be Colonial Amerindian Period Sites. Primarily within the archaeological record are three sites: Tanki Flip, east Aruba, Santa Cruz Island central Aruba and Savaneta at coastal southwest Aruba. These sites are situated more or less on one straight line to each other with 6.8 km between Tanki Flip and Santa Cruz and 8 km between Santa Cruz and Savaneta. Surface finding and excavations production in the subsoil of these sites suggest all three were large permanent inhabitant villages by generations during considerable periods of time.

Excavations between 1974 and 1976 yielded hundreds of postholes and other features and Santa Cruz and Savaneta respectively 500 postholes and other features. Tanki Flip was excavated in 1995; excavations on the north part of this site resulted in the find of larger oval structures and smaller round ones. Such quantity of the postholes concentrations suggested long pe-

riods of permanent inhabitation.

These are the three large villages and only two sites are classified in the medium category: Tanki Lendert and Parkitenbos west. The extent and density of finds is considerable but less than the three earlier discussed sites. They are interpreted as permanent settlements for at least some decades by a considerable population.

Parkitenbos west is an exception within the group of 5 large/relatively large terrains. This site only yielded undecorated relatively coarse pottery up to know. All four others sites shows evidenced of an appreciable quantities of Dabajuroid decorated pottery. All these site era now under the tread and menace of being developed with housing and commercial projects.

Aruba's cultural heritage is constantly threatened by many external and internal risks and elements. In order to preserve and to use cultural heritage sites, objects, collections or architectural heritage, one is required to be continuously aware of and manage numerous threats to prevent the loss of this heritage and its attributed cultural value. Being in responsible unison with other institutes, organizations and amateurs for the preservation of Dutch Island cultural heritage, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) is well aware of this. The RCE implements policy provides advice and develops knowledge in order to carry out its mission.

To get to know a little bit more regarding Aruba's and its cultural origins, etc., we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session. A mind opening revelation and entertaining island experience. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com, our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.□



Article by: Etnia Nativa

Whatsapp us +297 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience

Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito



This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Hay sites
- 6 Stylist's spot
- 11 "Cats" poet
- 12 Banish
- 13 Film category
- 14 African grassland
- 15 Tooth layer
- 17 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
- 19 Impair
- 20 Diet no-no
- 23 Out of bed
- 25 Trig function
- 26 They say they're free, in life
- 28 Yard units
- 29 Flip
- 30 Snaky shape
- 31 Cove
- 32 Stew sphere
- 33 Bill collector, of a sort
- 35 November birthstone
- 38 Heap of fiction
- 41 Not dozing
- 42 Simpleton
- 43 Floppy cap
- 44 Door sign

DOWN

- 1 Relay section
- 2 Corrida
- 3 Small cry
- 3 Small distinctions
- 4 Tattered
- 5 Clambake clam
- 6 Cut off
- 7 Skating jump
- 8 Rap's — Nas X
- 9 Outdated
- 10 Pay stub line
- 16 Snare
- 17 Social blunder
- 18 Spring sign

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Yesterday's answer

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 20 Contract details | 33 Confiscate |
| 21 Trig topic | 34 Give — for one's money |
| 22 Physicist Nikola | 35 Bar bill |
| 24 Ready to go | 36 Need to pay |
| 25 Pop's daughter | 37 Golf goal |
| 27 Hit song of 1968 | 39 Hole in one |
| 31 "Carmen" composer | 40 That woman |

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11-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

RGBX IBAIUBF ZLKB HAK DAC

LXP ZKD HAK DAC, JGBD ZLX

FJKLEMGBX ACJ DACK FACU.

— ULXMFJAX GCMGBF

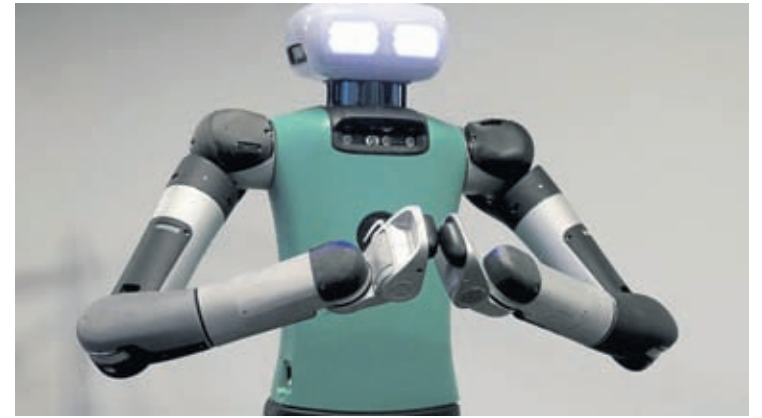
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HOME ISN'T WHERE YOU'RE FROM: IT'S WHERE YOU FIND LIGHT WHEN ALL GROWS DARK. — PIERCE BROWN

Humanoid robots are here, but they're a little awkward. Do we really need them?

By Matt O'Brien
Associated Press

(AP) - Building a robot that's both human-like and useful is a decades-old engineering dream inspired by popular science fiction. While the latest artificial intelligence craze has sparked another wave of investments in the quest to build a humanoid, most of the current prototypes are clumsy and impractical, looking better in staged performances than in real life. That hasn't stopped a handful of startups from keeping at it.

"The intention is not to start from the beginning and say, 'Hey, we're trying to make a robot look like a person,'" said Jonathan Hurst, co-founder and chief robot officer at Agility Robotics. "We're trying to make robots that can operate in human spaces."



Agility Robotics' robot Digit performs gestures at the company's office in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023. Agility co-founder Jonathan Hurst said, "We're trying to make robots that can operate in human spaces."

(AP Photo/Matt Freed)

Do we even need humanoids? Hurst makes a point of describing Agility's warehouse robot Digit as human-centric, not humanoid, a distinction meant to emphasize what it does over what it's trying to be. What it does, for now, is pick up tote bins and move them. Amazon

announced in October it will begin testing Digits for use in its warehouses, and Agility opened an Oregon factory in September to mass produce them. Digit has a head containing cameras, other sensors and animated eyes, and a torso that essentially works as its engine. □

New technology installed beneath Detroit street can charge electric vehicles as they drive



An electric van drives past a visible in-road wireless charging coil to be installed in a street in Detroit, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

By Corey Williams
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Crews have installed what's billed as the nation's first wireless-charging public roadway for electric vehicles beneath a street just west of downtown Detroit. Copper inductive charging coils allow vehicles equipped with receivers to charge up their batteries while driving, idling or parking above the coils. The quarter-mile segment of 14th Street will be used to test and perfect the technology ahead of making it available to the public within a few years, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation. Demonstrations were held Wednesday at Michigan Central innovation district, a hub for advancing technologies and programs that address barriers to mobility. □

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US economic growth for last quarter is revised up to a 5.2% annual rate

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shrugging off higher interest rates, America's consumers spent enough to help drive the economy to a brisk 5.2% annual pace from July through September, the government reported Wednesday in an upgrade from its previous estimate.

The government had previously estimated that the economy grew at a 4.9% annual rate last quarter. In the current fourth quarter, though, economists say growth is likely slowing sharply from the cumulative effects of higher borrowing rates on consumer and business spending. TD Economics, for example, expects growth in the October-December period to come in at a 1.8% annual rate.

Wednesday's second estimate of growth for the July-September quarter confirmed that the economy sharply accelerated from its 2.1% rate from April through June. It showed that the U.S. gross domestic product the total output of goods and services grew at its fastest quarterly rate in nearly two years. Consumer spending, the lifeblood of the economy, rose at a 3.6% annual rate from July through Sep-



A truck passes oil pump jacks at dusk near Karnes City, Texas, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023. On Wednesday, the Commerce Department issues its second of three estimates of how the U.S. economy performed in the third quarter of 2023.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay, File)

tember still healthy but a downgrade from the previous estimate of 4%. Private investment surged at a 10.5% annual pace, including a 6.2% increase in housing investment, which defied higher mortgage rates.

The economy also received a lift from companies building inventories in anticipation of future sales, which added 1.4 percentage points to quarterly growth. Also driving the third quarter growth was an

The U.S. economy, the world's largest, has proved resilient even as the Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times since March 2022 to fight the worst bout of

inflation in four decades. Those higher interest rates have significantly increased consumer and business borrowing costs. But they have also helped ease inflationary pressures: Consumer prices rose 3.2% last month from 12 months earlier, a marked improve-

ment from the 9.1% year-over-year inflation recorded in June 2022.

The U.S. job market is cooling from the red-hot levels of the past two years. But it's still healthy by historical standards: Employers are adding an average of 239,000 jobs a month this year. And the unemployment rate has come in below 4% for 21 straight months, the longest such streak since the 1960s. □

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Actor Jonathan Majors in court for expected start of jury selection in New York assault trial

By Jake Offenhartz
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The actor Jonathan Majors appeared in court in New York on Wednesday for the expected start of jury selection in a trial in which he is accused of injuring his then-girlfriend during an argument last spring. The trial could wind up playing a big role in what happens next with Majors, who had emerged as a breakout star with major roles in films including "Creed III" and who was being set up as the next great supervillain in the Marvel multiverse.

The 34-year-old actor entered a Manhattan courtroom alongside his current girlfriend, the actress Meagan Good, carrying a Bible and one of his signature coffee cups. He did not speak during the start of the proceeding.

Majors was arrested in March over a confrontation between the actor and Grace Jabbari, his girlfriend at the time, during a car ride in Manhattan.

Prosecutors said Jabbari had grabbed a phone out of the actor's hand after seeing a text, presumably from another woman, say-



Actors Jonathan Majors, center, and Meagan Good, right, arrive at court for a jury selection on Major's domestic violence case, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, in New York.

(AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

ing "Wish I was kissing you right now." Majors tried to snatch the phone back. Jabbari said the actor pulled her finger, twisted her arm behind her back and hit her face. After the couple's driver stopped the car and the pair got out, Jabbari said Majors threw her back into the vehicle. Police said Jabbari was treated at a hospital for minor injuries.

Majors' attorneys have

maintained that Jabbari was the aggressor during the fight and had scratched and hit him. They alleged on Wednesday that police who responded to the scene did not interview Majors and that Manhattan prosecutors have refused to review evidence showing he was the victim. Jabbari was also briefly arrested by New York City police last month after Majors filed a cross complaint

against her, but the district attorney's office dropped all charges against her the next day.

On Wednesday, the judge, Michael Gaffey, described the brief arrest of Jabbari as "very unusual," suggesting that Majors' celebrity status may have played a role in the police department's decision to charge his accuser three months after the incident.

"Did this only come about

because of the high profile nature of the case?" Gaffey asked the court. "If this was an indigent, everyday New Yorker, would this arrest have happened?"

Majors is charged with misdemeanors including assault and could be sentenced to up to a year in jail if convicted.

Before jury selection could begin Wednesday, attorneys for Majors successfully sought to bar the public and press from the courtroom in order to discuss evidence in the case that has not been made public. The attorney, Seth Zuckerman, warned the evidence could "taint the jury pool beyond repair for Mr. Majors," adding that his client may face "trial by newspaper."

Gaffey agreed, finding that the evidence was likely to be "inflammatory" and could taint a jury pool if it were reported in the media.

The Manhattan District Attorney did not take a position on the matter. An attorney hired to represent the press, Katherine Bolger, opposed the move to seal evidence, noting that the public had a right to know the evidence in the case. □



Actress Frances Sternhagen holds her award for best featured actress in a play for her performance in "The Heiress" during the Tony Awards in New York on June 4, 1995.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

Frances Sternhagen, Tony Award-winning actor who was familiar maternal face on TV, dies at 93

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Frances Sternhagen, the veteran character actor who won two Tony Awards and became a familiar maternal face to TV viewers later in life in such shows as "Cheers," "ER," "Sex and the City" and "The Closer," has died. She was 93. Sternhagen died peacefully of natural causes in her home in Washington, D.C., her son, John Carlin, said in a statement posted to Instagram. "Fly on, Frannie," Car-

lin wrote. "The curtain goes down on a life so richly, passionately, humbly and generously lived." Sternhagen won a Tony for best featured actress in a play in 1974 for her role in Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor" and a second one in 1995 for a revival of "The Heiress." Her last turn on Broadway was in "Seascape" in 2005. She was nominated for Tonys four other times, for starring or featured roles in "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," "Equus,"

"Angel" and "Morning's at Seven." In 2013, she played Edie Falco's mother in the off-Broadway play "The Madrid." "I have been very fortunate," Sternhagen told the Daily Breeze of Torrance, California, in 2002. "And I think a lot of that is because I'm considered a character actor which really means you can do a variety of things. It doesn't mean that you can't do leading parts, because I have. But you're not limited to playing yourself." □

Alabama linebacker Dallas Turner, actress Issa Rae part of group buying sailing league's Team USA

By Bernie Wilson
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Alabama linebacker Dallas Turner and actress/producer Issa Rae are part of a diverse group of investors joining founding Uber engineer Ryan McKillen and professional sailor Mike Buckley in buying the United States SailGP Team in tech titan Larry Ellison's global sailing league.

Turner said he is using some of his name, image and likeness income to buy into the group that also includes Tennessee Titans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins and former heavyweight champion and Olympic bronze medalist Deontay Wilder. Avenue Sports Fund, led by former Milwaukee Bucks co-owner Marc Lasry, is the lead investor. Other investors include NFL players Roquan Smith and Kayvon Thibodeaux, and DJ and producer Gryffin.

"I think I can say we've put together the most diverse ownership group in the history of our sport," said Buckley, who will be team CEO. "I have always dreamed about bringing sailing into



Alabama linebacker Dallas Turner responds to questions during NCAA college football Southeastern Conference Media Day on July 19, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn.

(AP Photo/George Walker IV, File)

the mainstream, a little bit more in line with today's American dream. This is a pretty epic step."

The purchase has been in the works for several months and was announced Wednesday. On Saturday, former Team USA CEO and skipper Jimmy Spithill told The Associated Press he was leaving the squad and

will start a new Italian team for Season 5 that will begin after the 37th America's Cup ends in mid-October 2024.

Seven-time world champion Taylor Canfield takes over as skipper. Team USA is currently third in the 10-team league after five of 13 regattas in Season 4. The next regatta is in Dubai on

Dec. 9-10.

Ellison and five-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts of New Zealand co-founded SailGP after their Oracle Team USA lost the America's Cup to Emirates Team New Zealand in 2017. SailGP uses a souped-up version of the 50-foot foiling catamarans that were introduced in the 2017

America's Cup. Powered by a wingsail, the cats skim over the waves at highway speeds.

Ellison and Coutts intended SailGP to be commercially sustainable with its regular schedule of TV-friendly regattas around the world, whereas the America's Cup often has gaps of up to three or four years in between regattas.

SailGP includes most of the world's top sailors, many of whom also compete in the America's Cup and Olympics. It offers a \$1 million, winner-take-all season championship, which has been won three straight times by Tom Slingsby and Team Australia.

The new group said this is the biggest acquisition in SailGP history but declined to give a valuation. By comparison, when British sailing star Ben Ainslie helped take his team private a year ago, the valuation was announced at \$40 million.

Ellison originally covered the league's costs but intended for it to eventually move to a franchise ownership model. □

Paris angers critics with plans to restrict Olympic Games traffic but says residents shouldn't flee

By John Leicester
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Stay, enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime show.

That was the message from organizers of the Paris Olympics on Wednesday as they sought to reassure the French capital's residents that security measures and traffic restrictions won't make their lives nightmarish during the July 26-Aug. 11 event and the Paralympic Games that follow.

But critics, including some in the Senate, were displeased by plans to require motorists to apply online for a QR code to access traffic-restricted zones of Paris during the Games.

Senators complained that lawmakers had not been consulted. Nathalie Goulet, a senator from Norman-

dy, likened the proposal to ID papers that France's Nazi occupiers imposed in World War II.



The Olympic rings in front of the Paris City Hall, in Paris, Sunday, April 30, 2023.

(AP Photo/Aurelien Morissard, File)

The Senate announced that Paris police chief Laurent Nuñez would appear before senators on Thursday and be asked to explain the security measures around the event.

Nuñez, speaking to journalists, defended the planned QR code as legal and justified. He insisted that traffic restrictions would be kept to the necessary minimum and suggested that he'd been expecting criticism.

"One can always be the little ugly duckling who sulks in the corner. We know we'll have lots of those," the police chief said.

The traffic restrictions and other security measures detailed Wednesday by

Nuñez in a newspaper interview and a subsequent news conference will be concentrated on Olympic competition routes and venues, some of them installed in the heart of Paris, and won't be generalized across the capital.

Pedestrians and cyclists won't need the QR code to get around, but motor vehicles and motorbikes will need it to get past some police checkpoints. Some Metro stations will be closed.

But Nuñez said the general aim is to create as little economic impact as possible and for shops, restaurants and museums to remain accessible. □

Women's soccer falls short in medical support and pay, World Cup survey claims

By James Robson
Associated Press
MANCHESTER, England
(AP) — Women's soccer

is falling short in key areas including medical support and pay, according to a survey of players involved in this year's Women's World Cup.

The survey, conducted by players' union FIFPRO and released Wednesday, found that 60% of respondents said they lacked mental health support, while one in three earned less than \$30,000 a year from soccer.

"The players gave everything they had to put on a brilliant World Cup, but there are still important



Spain's Aitana Bonmati holds the Player of the Tournament trophy after the final of Women's World Cup soccer between Spain and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023.
(AP Photo/Rick Rycroft, File)

gaps that need addressing," FIFPRO director of policy and strategic relations for women's football Sarah Gregorius said. "We will be seeking to work through these issues with stakeholders and resolve them as soon as possible." The World Cup was co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand in July and August.

It boasted record attendances and viewing figures, with Spain being crowned champion after beating England in the final.

That match was overshadowed when then-Spanish soccer federation president Luis Rubiales kissed player Jenni Hermoso on the lips without her consent during the awards ceremony, leading to a players' rebellion and accusations of sexual assault. The survey highlighted further areas of concern relating to the conditions players were expected to operate under.

FIFPRO said it surveyed 260 players from 26 of the 32 national teams in the tournament.

It said 10% did not undergo a medical examination before the tournament. In what the union described as a "worrying statistic," it said 22% did not have an electrocardiogram.

"Anything below 100% when it comes to access to an ECG or undertaking a pre-tournament medical is not acceptable," FIFPRO head of strategy and research for women's football Alex Culvin said. "All players need to complete these important checks before they compete, and the regulations need to be applied and adhered to in full."

FIFPRO said two-thirds of players claimed they were not in peak condition by the time the tournament started and 53% believed they'd had insufficient rest before their opening game at the World Cup. □



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